

Race to the Top
Highlights from Governor Granholm's remarks to the
Network of Michigan Educators
December 1, 2009

- The old Michigan economy is gone. It is being replaced by a new economy that places a premium on education, an economy that sees talented people as the raw material that fuels growth and creates prosperity.
- The next three weeks in Michigan are critical to our future. We're asking the legislature to do some heavy lifting in a short period of time.
- Each of the reforms we enact will not only meet a clear Race to the Top goal, but each will, in its own right, give us a stronger education system in Michigan.
- Race to the Top reflects President Obama's and Secretary Duncan's desire to move education in this country to new heights.
- As the president has said, nothing else we do is as important to American prosperity. It is true for Michigan as well: nothing else we do is as important for the prosperity and future of Michigan.
- We have an ambitious agenda for change in our schools but it is one we can achieve.
- The coming legislative session – the last before the end of the year – is critical and each of us has a role to play.
- Race to the Top is a competition. We cannot do the bare minimum and expect to win. We have to rise to the top among states competing for these important resources.
- No state needs it more than we do – not just financially, but from the long-term perspective of changing our economy.
- We must win. And we can win, but only if we work together.
- To make change on this scale, all of us may have to give up a few things we want. We must be willing to compromise and work toward the greater goal of fundamentally changing education in Michigan so our children can compete in the global economy of the 21st century.
- We need to act, we need to innovate, and we need to move quickly.

- This is a race with global implications. The Race to the Top is our generation's "space race," our generation's Sputnik.
- Race to the Top is an opportunity to tell the nation and the world just who we are: a state committed to the fundamental change, the systemic change, the deep change the future demands.
- We must transform education in Michigan and we must be fearless in our determination to do so.
- It is a race we must win for a meaningful future to be possible.